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OUTGOING MESSAGE

CHANNELS

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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/DCI/WHIZ 741116

CIA/WHSS

SOURCE REF:

1		4		7		10	
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3		6		9		12	

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FANZIO,  
STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION  
CIA REP, TREASURY DEPT//INFO FOR [REDACTED]  
WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS  
INVOLVED

25X1A2g

ITEM NO: 1

DATE: 16 NOVEMBER 1974

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF THE ARMED FORCES  
MOVEMENT

25X1A2g

REF :

THE US EMBASSY IN LISBON REPORTS THAT THE SUPERIOR  
COUNCIL OF THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT APPEARS TO BE PLAYING  
A MAJOR ROLE IN THE CURRENT CRISIS WITHIN THE PORTUGUESE  
MILITARY. THE COUNCIL IS ESSENTIALLY A GROUP OF  
CONSERVATIVE-TO-MODERATE MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS  
TRYING TO ACT AS A BRAKE ON THE YOUNGER, MORE-RADICAL MINDED  
OFFICERS IN THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT.

ASIDE FROM VAGUE PRESS DESCRIPTIONS, THE FUNCTION OF  
SUPERIOR COUNCIL HAS NEVER BEEN FULLY EXPLAINED TO THE GENERAL

DATE:  
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E 2

IMPORT

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SOURCE REF:

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PUBLIC. IT IS KNOWN, HOWEVER, THAT PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES HEADS IT. ITS MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE JUNTA, SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE RADICAL-DOMINATED COORDINATING COMMITTEE, AND THE MILITARY COMMANDER FOR LISBON. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDE PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES AND FOUR MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET.

PRESIDENT GOMES MAY BE USING THE COUNCIL TO GAIN GREATER CONTROL OVER THE MILITARY, ESPECIALLY THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE. THE COUNCIL HAS, IN FACT, RECENTLY RECOMMENDED THAT THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE BE ABOLISHED. THE COUNCIL ALSO ALLOWS THE PRESIDENT TO BRING MEMBERS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT INTO THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS OF THE AFM. E-2 IMPDET.H 25X1A9a

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: WE DIV NIO [REDACTED]

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